

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on Monday, April 23, 2009

Embassy Suites – Napa Valley Hotel, 1075 California Blvd., Napa, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Greg Coleman, Pete Downs, Ben Drake, Drew Johnson, Bradford Lange, Jim Ledbetter, Dana Merrill, Al Rossini, Herb Schmidt, Marilyn Wolf

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Dennis Atkinson, Steve McIntyre, Steve Schafer

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: George Bruening, Nat DiBuduo, Ben Drake, David House, Scott Hudson, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson, Joe MacIlvaine, Richard Mounts, Corky Roche, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, David Whitmer, David Wineman

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Ted Batkin, Larry Bezark, Steve Nation, John Snyder, Robert Wample, Craig Weaver

OTHER ATTENDEES

Alan Bennett, Cecilia Chi-Ham, Tom Esser, Ken Freeze, Kyle Jensen, Camron King, Eric Lauritzen, Frank Leeds, Janet LeMasters, Mike Miller, Gabriel Paulino, Tasha Rassuli, Ted Rieger, Roger Spencer, Bob Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Al Rossini called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (ATF). A quorum was present for both the Board and the ATF. Ben Drake served as Acting Chair in Kevin Andrew's absence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Al Rossini welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairperson Rossini presented Certificates of Appreciation to former Board member Frank Leeds and outgoing Chairperson Herb Schmidt. He thanked them both for their dedication and hard work in the fight against Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter. Napa County Agricultural Commissioner David Whitmer welcomed all members and attendees. He commended the Board, the ATF, and Pierce's Disease Control Program. He noted that this was one of the greatest partnerships ever achieved with cooperative participation from state, county, city, federal, and industry leaders and representatives working together to benefit the grape and winegrape industry in the fight against Pierce's disease. The Board Chairperson also noted that there was an excellent article in the publication *Ag Alert* written by Board member Steve McIntyre.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board and ATF to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2009 meeting.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Pete Downs Second: Brad Lange
In Favor: Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini,
Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, McIntyre, Schafer

Details of ATF Vote

Motion: Corky Roche Second: Unrecognized
In Favor: Bruening, DiBuduo, Drake, House, Hudson, Irelan, Johnson, MacIlvaine,
Mounts, Roche, Stewart-Leslie, Stone-Smith, Whitmer, Wineman

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Batkin, Bezark, Nation, Snyder, Wample, Weaver

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve the minutes from the Board's March 11, 2009 conference call meeting.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Pete Downs Second: Brad Lange
In Favor: Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini,
Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, McIntyre, Schafer

NEXT MEETING

The next joint Board and ATF meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2009, in Sacramento, California. Key topics on the June agenda include setting the grape assessment rate for 2009, adopting a Board budget for FY 2009-10, and southern California nursery treatments.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Greg Coleman reported for the Committee. He said the Committee nominated David House to replace Wally Ewart on the Board. David is also a member of the PD Advisory Task Force.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend that David House be appointed as a new member of the Board.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake Second: Herb Schmidt
In Favor: Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini,
Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, McIntyre, Schafer

FISCAL UPDATE

Bob Wynn reviewed the program's Operations Revenue and Expenditure Report. Tom Esser discussed the Board's Revenues and Expenditures.

Beth Stone-Smith then presented the federal budget and FY 09 detail updates for the USDA. She noted that the original Omnibus appropriations amount was for \$22.948 million but was reduced to \$22.518 million. They were still waiting for the official and final amount.

PIPRA UPDATE

Alan Bennett gave an update on Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture's (PIPRA) PD/GWSS activities. Alan noted that they continued to facilitate the pipeline on research projects. Major accomplishments included: consolidation of information and databases into a web-portal; development of an IP policy; and development of regulatory strategies for GM grapevines and rootstocks. Alan noted they would be consulting with Dr. Scott Thenell regarding USDA regulatory applications for permits for future GMO field trials and testing for grapevine and rootstock research projects.

PIPRA PROPOSAL

Tom Esser led the discussion on the two-year PIPRA proposal submitted for the Board's approval. This proposal would include the continued maintenance of the PD intellectual property literature database and portal, working with USDA on regulatory permits related to field trials on GM rootstock and grapevines research, development of a standardized regulatory process for GM rootstocks and grapevines, and a pre-marketing survey on PD strategies deployment to be sent to the grape industry. The Board's only concern was the survey segment of the proposal and the types of questions the survey would contain. The Board and ATF wanted to be actively involved in the process and had concerns on how to approach industry members regarding such a survey. The Board formed a subcommittee consisting of Herb Schmidt, Nancy Irelan, Greg Coleman, Steve McIntyre, Brad Lange, Tom Esser, and industry representative Camron King that would work with PIPRA on the survey.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend renewing the service contract with the Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture (PIPRA; located at UC Davis), to continue providing support for the management of intellectual property within the Pierce's disease research initiative and research community. The service contract is for \$112,250 for FY 2009-10 and \$113,875 for FY 2010-11.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Jim Ledbetter Second: Pete Downs

In Favor: Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini,
Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, McIntyre, Schafer

RESEARCH PROPOSAL BY DR. RICK REDAK

Bob Wynn discussed the research proposal provided by Dr. Rick Redak for evaluating four additional materials for use as approved treatment insecticides for nursery stock. The four materials are deltamethrin, acetamiprid, spirotetramat, and spinetoram.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend funding the research proposal entitled, "Evaluation of Additional Insecticides for Quarantine Against the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter in California's Commercial Ornamental Nurseries," by Dr. Rick Redak. The total amount of the contract is \$143,435.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Dana Merrill

Second: Pete Downs

In Favor: Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini,
Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, McIntyre, Schafer

RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Tom Esser discussed the CDFA PD/GWSS Research Screening Committee funding recommendations. Out of 27 proposals submitted, 13 were recommended for funding. Of these, 11 would be funded by the UC-PD program using funding provided by USDA-CSREES. It was recommended that the Board fund the remaining two. These were submitted by Drs. Bruce Kirkpatrick and Andy Walker and total \$806,570 over three years.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend funding the following two research projects, totaling \$806,570 over three years: Dr. Bruce Kirkpatrick, "Identification and Utilization of Cold Temperature Induced Grapevine Metabolites to Manage PD," total cost \$218,570 and Dr. Andy Walker, "Breeding PD Resistant Winegrapes," total cost \$588,000.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake Second: Drew Johnson

In Favor: Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini,
Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, McIntyre, Schafer

RESEARCH DIRECTOR REPORT

Nancy Irelan gave her portion of the PD/GWSS outreach presentation to the Board and ATF. The presentation covered various aspects of research work, and the progress, timelines, and successes made by PD/GWSS research scientists.

Bob Wynn and Herb Schmidt noted that this presentation had been well received at the Wine Institute in January. A copy of Nancy's Application Summaries to Targeted Research Projects was included in everyone's folders.

COMPENSATION FOR RSAP

Nancy Irelan discussed compensating the Research Scientific Advisory Panel (RSAP) members for additional services they provide the Board beyond scientific reviews and recommendations.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend allowing payments to Research Scientific Advisory Panel members up to \$2,000 per year for special services they provide.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Herb Schmidt Second: Drew Johnson

In Favor: Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, Merrill, Rossini,
Schmidt, Wolf

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andrew, Atkinson, McIntyre, Schafer

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Roger Spencer reported that Brown-Miller was circulating the final draft of the four-page brochure that would be sent out to the grower community. The brochure provides a 10-year review of the actions taken to protect California's grape and wine industry from PD/GWSS. Copies of the draft brochure were passed around for review by the members.

Ken Freeze briefly discussed the four-page brochure and the schedule of the PD/GWSS outreach presentations. A cover letter signed by both the Board Chairperson and Bob Wynn would also accompany the brochure when mailed out to the grower community. Ken also passed out recent news clips and a draft of the next issue of their newsletter. Pete Downs suggested that the presentation be recorded and reproduced on a DVD.

AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on the GWSS areawide programs in Riverside County (Temecula and Coachella Valley), Kern County (General Beal, North Zone, and Hwy 65), and Tulare County. She noted that there were spring treatments being conducted with Imidacloprid and citrus owners were treating their areas.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

N/A

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

Tom Esser discussed the DPR Notice of Decision to Initiate the Reevaluation of Chemicals in the Nitroguanidine Insecticide Class of Neonicotinoids. A copy of the notice and the PDCP response letter was included in everyone's folder. The main concern seems to be possible impacts on honey bees. Bob Wynn noted that SB 2 by Senator Wiggins had passed through the Senate and was moving forward.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.